**Criterion B: Investigating**

Maximum: 8

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| **Achievement level** | **Level descriptor** |
| 0 | The student does not reach a standard described by any of the descriptors below. |
| 1–2 | The student:   * formulates a **very general** research question * formulates and follows a **limited** action plan to investigate a research question * collects and records **limited** information not always consistent with the research question |
| 3–4 | The student:   * formulates an **adequate** research question * formulates and follows a **partial** action plan to investigate a research question * uses a method or methods to collect and record **some** information consistent with the research question |
| 5–6 | The student:   * formulates a **clear** research question * formulates and follows a **satisfactory** action plan to investigate a research question * uses methods to collect and record **appropriate** information consistent with the research question |
| 7–8 | The student:   * formulates a **clear** and **focused** research question * formulates and follows a **detailed** action plan to investigate a research question * uses methods **accurately** to collect and record **appropriate** and **varied** information consistent with the research question |

Notes

* When defining a “clear and focused research question” the following elements can be considered: relevance, manageability, originality, ability to be assessed, of interest to the student and based in the subject. Students are not expected to formulate a research question in all cases that objective B is addressed; this can be supplied by the teacher. However, students must be given opportunities to formulate research questions at some stage during year 5. Research questions might also be formulated at the end of an investigation when students have developed their knowledge of the topic under consideration. The research question might also be formulated as a research statement.
* The action plan refers to the steps and information that the student defines in order to complete the investigation; it does not specifically refer to an essay plan, although this might be included in the overall action plan.
* Methods to collect information include, but are not limited to: selection of sources (type and range); questionnaires; surveys; interviews; observation; experiments; measurement; use of statistics and databases; formulation of questions.
* Methods to record information (electronic or paper), include but are not limited to: note-taking and summarizing; production of tables, graphs, maps, checklists; production of MindMaps®; indexing; creation of visuals such as timelines; production of databases.